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THE SEARCH FOR PHYSICAL EVIDENCE - PART 2

OUR FIRST REACTIONS TO THE CONDON REPORT

E D I T O R I A L

A Shift of Emphasis

Until fairly recently serious UFO research has been aimed at the possibility of proving that some of the unexplained UFOs are intelligently directed vehicles from other planets. The issues were fairly simple. On the one hand the serious "believers", typified by Keyhoe, held that the interplanetary spaceships hypothesis was the only tenable one to account for many unexplained reports. At the other extreme the more thoughtful sceptics, typified by Menzel, insisted that all UFO reports could be explained as misinterpretations of natural phenomena or conventional aircraft, if sufficient, accurate information were available in each case. Both sides generally refused to take contact reports seriously, leaving this aspect to the cultists.

At one time the elusive UFO itself was the main object of our researches, but now the emphasis is beginning to shift to studies of the witnesses, the strange happenings reported to accompany many UFO events, and the backgrounds against which these events take place.

The kind of testimony which has been piling up increasingly in the last few years--that of reported close encounters with UFOs and their "occupants"--seems to make this shift of emphasis inevitable. For these are the types of encounters which could be expected to produce definite proof of the physical reality of the UFOs. But these UFOs and their occupants always get away, and if anything in the nature of physical evidence is found at the sites of the reported encounters, that evidence is generally equivocal, to say the least.

It is thus probable that in future the subject of ufology will increasingly engage the serious attention of psychologists--and even psychical researchers.

THE SEARCH FOR PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

PART TWO

(Part 1 was published in Volume 1, Number 6)

Angel Hair

One of the most tantalizing types of alleged physical evidence for the reality of UFOs is the phenomenon which has come to be known as "angel hair". This material is generally described as a white, fibrous substance, resembling spiders' webs, wool, or nylon. The filaments float down to earth and sometimes cover quite large areas of ground. Unfortunately the substance is unstable and appears to slowly sublime and disappear. It is said to burn "like cellophane" when ignited. Falls of angel hair generally coincide with UFO reports.

Among the earliest reports of this phenomenon were two sightings which occurred in France, in 1952. (3) At Oloron, on October 17th, at about 12.50 p.m., the headmaster of the lycee there, together with his wife and children, witnessed a strange event. To the north they saw a fleecy cloud, of curious shape, floating along. Above it was a long, narrow cylinder, tilted at an angle of 45 degrees and slowly heading south-west, at an estimated altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 metres. The object was whitish in colour and its shape was quite distinct. Puffs of white smoke were coming from its top side. Some way ahead of the cylinder about 30 other objects were travelling on the same course. When viewed with field glasses, each of these objects was seen to have a red ball at the centre, surrounded by a yellowish ring. These objects travelled in pairs in short, swift zigzags. When two of them moved apart they seemed to be connected by a whitish trail. All of these objects left long trails which disintegrated and drifted slowly to the ground. For many hours afterwards trees, telephone wires and roofs were festooned with streamers of the mysterious substance.

Attempts to preserve the substance for analysis were unsuccessful, because when handled it became gelatinous, then vapourized. Apart from the schoolmaster and his family already mentioned, there were said to have been numerous other witnesses in the area.

On October 27th, at 5 p.m., an almost exact repetition of the incident occurred at Gaillac. Again there were many witnesses.

There was some scepticism among ufologists concerning these early reports. But others were to follow, to confirm this phenomenon as a genuine one, requiring explanation. Reports from the U.S.A. included two incidents which occurred in the same area, the San Fernando Valley, California, on November 16th, 1953, and February 1st, 1954. (4)

The explainers-away were almost unanimous in attributing such reports to the activities of spiders, borne aloft by the wind and thermals on their gossamer threads and deposited many miles away. Although this theory convincingly explained some of the reports, it was obviously not possible to fit it to reports such as those from Oloron and Gaillac, even allowing for possible embellishment and exaggeration in the published accounts. Nevertheless, the pundits could think of no better rationalization, so spiders' webs it had to be.

The Condon Report is not very enlightening on this topic. After mentioning the spider explanation it simply says: "In other cases, the composition or origin of the 'angel's hair' is uncertain." (5)

However, at the BUFORA Northern Conference at Liverpool, in November 1967, Anthony Durham gave a lecture in which he discussed two possible explanations. He later published the text of this lecture in a privately circulated UFO bulletin. The angel hair could be a metastable chemical polymer, produced in a tornado funnel. The supply of dust particles and organic materials sucked up by the tornado, and the high electron current, high gas velocity and other conditions would be suitable for the formation of such a

substance, which would be spun into threads by the centrifugal force of the spinning column of air. The other hypothesis supposes dust particles exposed to a high electrical field. These charged particles would tend to aggregate in clumps, but shear forces would tend to make them form long chains of filaments. On falling to the ground, the filaments would lose their electrical charge and gradually disintegrate into fine dust again.

This explanation has been suggested before, but apparently has not been taken seriously by ufologists. Michel mentions that after falls of angel hair in eastern New Mexico on October 23rd and 24th, 1957, "...one pundit in Albuquerque asserted that the threads were composed of 'atmospheric dust' clumped together by a static electrical charge." (6)

The disadvantages of angel hair as physical evidence for UFOs are its instability and the likelihood that such material could in certain circumstances be produced by natural atmospheric disturbances, or disturbances caused by the passage of conventional aircraft.

On the other hand, when falls of this substance coincide with reasonably well witnessed reports of UFOs in the same area, this will help to establish that the cause of the UFO reports is physical, rather than psychological.

References

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4. KEYHOLE, DONALD E. The Flying Saucer Conspiracy, Hutchinson, London. 1957.
5. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, Bantam Books, New York. 1969.
6. MICHEL, AIME Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery, Criterion Books, New York. 1958.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(The views expressed by correspondents are not necessarily shared by the editors)

From Mr GARY B. LESLEY

Dear Mr Harney,

I was surprised to see in your January-February BULLETIN the Dahl/Crisman correspondence. The letters were released by Mr Ray Houser without my knowledge and permission. I had made it clear to Mr Houser, as well as several others I sent copies to, that the letters' contents were of possible value in private research on the Maury Island case. I say private because Mr Crisman and Mr Dahl preferred not to have the contents of our correspondence entered into public record.

Now that the breach of honoured silence has been terminated, I suppose it is my duty to correct several erroneous points presented in your Bulletin concerning the correspondence. First of all, contrary to the statement on page 12, I DID NOT have any telephone calls from Mr Dahl or from Mr Crisman. Also, I do NOT believe my telephone has been tapped at any time. Nor do I have any reason to believe my mail has been opened.

The matter of the almost-identical signatures on the letters would seem to be one of mere imagination on the part of someone interested in achieving a great deal more than that of simple interest from the correspondence.

May I say that I am not blaming the Merseyside UFO Bulletin for printing the correspondence, and, in fact, I highly respect your fine publication and enjoy reading many of its articles. I understand that you were publishing information you

believed to be of value to research on the subject, and that you had no idea that it was to remain confidential; that is, not of public record.

I trust that I have set the record straight in this letter. If not, please feel free to ask any questions regarding the Dahl/Crisman letters--or, for that matter, about the Maury Island case. Sincerely, Gary R. Lesley, 717 "A" Street N.E., Auburn, Washington 98002, U.S.A.

Editor's comments: In view of the above letter, editors of UFO magazines are requested not to reprint anything from the Dahl/Crisman correspondence in the last issue of the Bulletin without first consulting Gary Lesley.

From Mr ARTHUR SHUTTLEWOOD

Dear John,

What a vast improvement in expanded vision and consciousness was shown in the Merseyside UFO Bulletin of January-February this year! Wonderful--truly... The Editorial, for a start, was refreshing to read because it knocked a nail in the coffin of deadly dull hobbies and pursuits: compared to which mundane interests, that of ufology is a rippling breeze of pleasure, challenging mind, brain and spirit.

We are dealing, so obviously, with phenomena that just cannot be measured by the guidelines and yardsticks of Earth concepts in science and assessment. When this truth is more generally recognized and appreciated, much more progress will be made in solving the problems these enigmatic craft and occupants automatically raise. Your whole issue exploded most effectively a number of bubbles of illusion and delusion piped by so-called 'experts' who extol the alleged hostility of UFO crews without any regard for human values (if one can employ that term for extraterrestrial thought patterns) shown by interplanetary travellers.

Earnest researchers have been ridiculed so often, and for so long, that they are currently branded as 'eccentrics' and screwballs. Personally, I could not care less. Such an attitude, no matter how widespread, would never deter our local team from its investigations, faithfully carried out. The short answer is: if we are cranks and nutcases, what a pity the rest of a disbelieving world is not so branded, too!

One humble prediction I make confidently is that all the world will know within the next five years that UFOs are actual and factual; so that small crumb of assurance may encourage other amateurs to continue their earnest efforts to 'get to grips' with an intangible quantity, regardless of ill-based criticism that savours of a negative rather than positive nature.

Our scientists, bless them, will shortly be making a few momentous discoveries that will completely vindicate the honestly held opinions we have about UFOs and anti-gravity mastery. Stupid stories about hostility from flying friends and kidnapping for harmful purposes will also be dispelled by revelations that will emanate from 'them'.

Enough of prophecy! The future assuredly will tell us much of importance about the aliens who use our atmosphere; from whence they come; why they are here; and what they can and will teach us, when permitted. Those who still blindly clamour for 'nuts and bolts or nothing' will get just that--NOTHING--unless and until they elevate their sights to higher aspects and aspirations than sheer materialism in connection with ufological discovery!

Anyway, thanks again for an issue that puts many of your contemporaries in the shade. It was a treat to read! Truly, Arthur Shuttlewood, 17 Portway, Warminster, Wiltshire.

From Mr LUCIUS FARISH

Dear Mr Harney,

...I have received the copy of Merseyside UFO Bulletin that you sent, and wish to thank you very much for sending it. I found it most interesting indeed.

Judging from the contents of the issue you sent (Jan./Feb.), it appears that your publication contains what might be termed the "advanced thinking" in ufology. Not merely another listing of sighting reports, but a survey of the "deeper" thinking now being done. The "fairies" article was excellent, as it brought forth more evidence of the "little people" reports which stretch back to the most remote times. I have always been particularly interested in UFOs in history, legend, mythology, etc., so am always glad to see writings of this nature.

The Crisman/Dahl information via Gary Lesley was quite fascinating, as well. Crisman, in particular, seems to be quite a mystery man. He was subpoenaed by the Garrison investigation in New Orleans, as you may know. I have had some correspondence with a now-defunct (apparently) group which claimed to have considerable information concerning the Maury Island affair, although I was never able to obtain any of their alleged material. Curiously enough, the person with whom I corresponded, one "F. Lee", gave as his address, P.O.Box 722 in Tacoma, Wasington--the same as given by Fred L.Crisman! I am still wondering about this... ..Yours truly, Lucius Farish, Route One, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127, U.S.A.

From Mr ALAN O'TOOLE

Dear Sir,

I read your article, "The Men in Black Reports", in the Flying Saucer Review for March/April and was interested by a reference to the Merseyside UFO Bulletin.

I would also like to say that I believe the theory that you mention--that Albert Bender was suffering from delusions--is completely untenable. Bender's statements in 1953 to Lucchesi and Barker's description seem to show him a perfectly sane, if frightened, man. I was particularly interested in the brief statement by Bender in his book that the Shaver Mystery is true. I cannot believe that if he had discovered so earth-shaking a fact that he would pass over it so lightly. I believe his book was a deliberate misrepresentation of the true facts and that this brief reference served to explain his shock when questioned on the Mystery by Dominick Lucchesi (see "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers", Chapter 8) and secondly to explain away any future sightings after his book was published.

Finally, I would urge you in your investigations to note how many witnesses who know little or nothing about UFOs, describe the MIB in the same way, and to remember that if the MIB are real and as efficient as they seem to be, then for every incident of silencing you hear of there must be ten you will never hear of. Yours faithfully, Alan O'Toole, 4 St John's Terrace, Bootle 20, Lancs.

NOTES QUOTES & QUERIES

Hidden Data

Mr George Cregeen, commenting on flying saucers in the Liverpool Daily Post, writes:

"Flying saucers are very much in the news at the moment. A new book by Robert Chapman reveals that of 808 reports investigated by the Ministry of Defence, 84 remain unexplained.

"I can add one of my own. On a cold December night in 1951, two brilliant objects flew in formation with a Boeing Stratocruiser for over an hour as it headed across the Atlantic at 21,000 feet. They were watched by BOAC Senior Captain O.P.

Jones and all the flight deck crew. The navigator had them under observation on several different occasions, and was quite convinced they were not stars or other heavenly bodies.

"How do I know? I was there, a guest on the flight deck, sworn to secrecy at the time by five very serious men who had no desire to have their legs pulled."

Earth calling Jupiter

The United States satellite, Explorer 38, has recently detected natural long-wave radio signals, emanating from the Earth. The signals come in short, sporadic bursts and are said to be similar to the radio signals emitted by the planet Jupiter. It is thought that the mechanism of their production involves the Earth's magnetic field.

We can reasonably guess that it is only a matter of time before some ufologist, somewhere, "explains" them as the "Dero" exchanging information with their counterparts on Jupiter.

Amiable Eccentrics v. Boring Conformists

The Editorial in our last issue seems to have gone down quite well with our fellow ufologists. However, we don't know how many "normal" people have read it and, perhaps, taken it personally. So we remain alert for a possible surprise attack by a vengeful horde of boring suburbanites, wielding rolled umbrellas and gardening implements.

No Comment

Mr Arnold Wilson, the manager and director of one of Liverpool's oldest established bookshops, is reported in the Liverpool Daily Post (May 1st, 1969) as saying that he does not stock books "that I think are about phoney things, like Unidentified Flying Objects." He does however add that he doesn't set himself up as a censor. "If people ask for a book, I will get it for them."

OUR FIRST REACTIONS TO THE CONDON REPORT -- by the Editors

Alan W. Sharp

In assessing the value of the Condon Report the most difficult task is to arrive at some unbiased standard of worth. As a piece of scientific literature it leaves a good deal to be desired, but as a contribution to the understanding of the subject it contains much of general interest and some valuable elucidations of interesting sightings.

The temptation is to follow one of the least troublesome alternatives--uncritical acceptance of Condon's conclusions, or rejection of the report as a piece of official whitewashing. Neither, I feel, would be correct.

The Committee had what all sensible UFO investigators know to be an almost insuperable task and can claim moderate success in carrying out their brief.

The number of cases investigated was painfully small, but the results were set out quite well. No evidence was found to support the extraterrestrial spaceships hypothesis, but the treatment was incomplete. Some cases were unsolved but most of these were too readily shrugged aside under the amorphous designation of insufficient evidence for evaluation.

All this is just about what one would have expected and the fact that the Condon team did not score 100% success in evaluation of even their limited number of chosen sightings is hardly surprising. Had they done so, the feat would have been roundly condemned by everyone.

Bearing this in mind, it is obvious that complete success cannot be the correct criterion of the Report. It is also

obvious that Condon himself was scarcely justified in making the sweeping assertions contained in his Chapter 1 summary.

By and large, however, he is probably not far off the mark in saying that the scientific fallout from over 20 years of UFO research has been extremely small. Nevertheless, it is wrong to suppose that there has been none.

The interesting and valuable chapters dealing with many pertinent natural phenomena should be of considerable value and interest to all investigators of unusual aerial events and, in particular, to those who interest themselves in unidentified flying objects.

These chapters comprise the whole of section VI of the Report, from page 559 to page 810, plus a considerable part of Section III from page 51 to page 209; approximately 400 pages in all, out of 941 pages of text. Included in the latter part (Section III) are many analyses of sightings additional to the 59 cases which are described in detail in the 236 pages of Section IV.

Section II, called a "Summary of the Study", includes comment on such facets of the UFO scene as the extraterrestrial hypothesis, intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, visual perception, photographs of alleged UFOs, radar sightings, astronauts' sightings, instrumentation and the attitude of the general public.

Of the direct physical evidence which is mentioned in UFO literature, markings on the ground (p 87) and parts of UFO equipment discussed (p 92 et seq.) include the well-known Sao Paulo magnesium fragments, but the conclusion is reached that ground markings are inconclusive and the magnesium was of terrestrial origin. Angel hair is mentioned (p 89) and "space grass" is accounted for as anti-radar "chaff".

It would be possible, but somewhat tedious, to work through the whole report in this manner, but for anyone who is sufficiently interested to wade through such an intensive analysis the obvious course of action is to obtain a copy of the Report and peruse it at first-hand.

I would recommend such a course of action to all readers of this brief review. The main snag lies in the physical difficulty of reading a voluminous paperback, but the effort is well worth while and the 12/6 price makes the New York Times reprint a "must" for all ufologists and many other people besides.

John A. Rimmer

Despite the frenzy of slighted UFO organizations, one conclusion emerges clearly from the Condon Report. The U.S.A. government has no secret evidence that UFOs originate from beyond, upon, or within the Earth. If they did it would have been impossible for the Committee to maintain such a stance of splendid, detached boredom. As one ploughs through the thousand-odd pages of the Report one can sense the ennui, and almost hear Dr Condon yawning and whimpering, as the phrase is. On page 548 (New York Times/Bantam edition) we are presented with a moving and dramatic picture of Dr Condon being virtually blackmailed to leave his beloved work on atomic spectra to start an investigation on a "confused and ambiguous subject", one in which a "truly scientific study...was extremely difficult, if not impossible".

Having however been inveigled into this vague, airy-fairy world the good doctor proceeds immediately to extricate himself. The four hundred or so pages of scientific padding are not intended for the likes of us. They are there to impress fellow scientists that although the team may be investigating a thoroughly unsatisfactory topic, they are not going to be led from the paths of scientific orthodoxy. Here are solid facts, lots of graphs and formulae. A really good attempt to keep up the tone of the neighbourhood. The actual UFO work (that which is original, and not reprints from earlier reports or papers) is carried out in a methodical and scientific manner, but does not

give the impression that anyone is actually interested in the subject. Probably the approach would be the same if the Committee were asked to investigate Magyar vowel-roots in Icelandic. (Note: the opposite to 'interested' is 'uninterested', not 'disinterested')

The chapter "Conclusions and Recommendations" is a splendid example of the nineteenth-century materialist approach to research.

"Nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby."

The argument is that the scientific methods used to investigate UFOs are perfect and incapable of improvement, therefore it must be the UFOs that are at fault, and are inherently uninteresting. Further on in the same chapter Condon writes:

"As the reader will judge, we have focussed attention almost entirely on the material sciences... We have found rather less than some persons may have expected in the way of psychological problems related to belief in the reality of UFOs as craft from galactic or intergalactic civilizations... We do not suggest however that the UFO phenomenon is, by its nature, more amenable to study in (psychological and psychopathological) disciplines than in the physical sciences."

In this there appears to be something of the attitude that 'if we can't find out anything then neither can these trick-cyclist guys'. Again, true materialism, everything can be explained in terms of atoms and steam engines.

One of the conclusions that has generated a good deal of controversy is the recommendation that schoolchildren should be discouraged from reading the 'wrong kind' of UFO book. This evinced cries of 'dictatorship' from amny enthusiasts. However I would regard this as another manifestation of boredom, rather than some sinister plot. Possibly it can be seen as part of the educational backlash against current teaching methods. Dr Condon, probably brought up on an educational diet of solid learning, reinforced with such worthy works as 'Every Boy's Book of Atomic Spectra', would certainly look askance at such woolly-minded attitudes to education. The attitude is similar to older teachers' reactions to 'modern maths', which they castigate as 'playing around with coloured blocks'.

In short then, the Report is one made by materialists, bored and rather annoyed with a subject that they cannot get hold of and put in their spectrum analysis equipment. Best parts are chapters 1 and 2 of section V; chapter 3, section VI; and appendix V. Here one or two intangibles are allowed to creep in, although kept carefully under control. The case studies, section IV, are the same as all the ones you ever read in Menzel's books. Section VI is very nice if you like that kind of thing, but it's got nothing to do with UFOs.

John Harney

The Report of the Condon Committee is currently available as a paperback, consisting of nearly 1,000 pages ("Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects", a New York Times Book/Bantam Books, \$1.95. U.K. price 12/6).

The main conclusion reached by the Panel is that:-

"Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby." (p 1)

However, they admit that:-

"Scientists are no respecters of authority. Our conclusion that study of UFO reports is not likely to advance science will not be uncritically accepted by them." (p 2)

Thus the members of the Condon team fully realize that their report is extremely unlikely to end the scientific controversy on the subject of UFOs.

Apart from the foregoing remarks, the team seem to have been unable to state anything definite about the subject, and their attitude to the unexplained sightings in the report is somewhat negative.

There is something very familiar about their style and approach to the subject. All of the comments and evaluations have a distinctly Menzelian air about them. Indeed, Condon bemoans the fact that Menzel's book, "Flying Saucers" (1953), never achieved a large enough sale to be issued as a paperback, whereas Leslie and Adamski's "Flying Saucers Have Landed" (1953) became a best seller. (p 525)

It seems to me that it would be fair to sum up the general attitude of the Project members as follows. The vast majority of UFO reports can be explained satisfactorily as misinterpretations of aircraft and natural phenomena, and others explained as hoaxes and delusions. There remains a small number of unexplained incidents. In these cases, although it seems that genuine UFOs were involved, it is conceivable that the witnesses were mistaken or lying, therefore they must have been mistaken or lying. In another field of enquiry, the same sort of argument has been used to discredit psychical research.

The Report contains a number of apparently contradictory statements and comments. The most interesting concern allegations of government secrecy concerning UFOs. Condon writes: "We have no evidence of secrecy concerning UFO reports." (p 5) Yet in the Case Studies, Case 5 (pp 260-266) concerns an incident in 1957 when the crew of a B-47 aircraft encountered a UFO. The Project interviewed three of the crew members but were unable to obtain any information from the Air Force concerning the official reports said to have been made at the time. The team also remark on claimed UFO events at Air Force bases, about which they were unable to obtain any official information (p 70), quoting one of the cases they report in detail as an example (p 341). This case came to the attention of the Project from a "source considered to be reliable." However, after attempting to obtain official confirmation or denial of the report, the Project came to the following conclusion:

"Although it is true that the report of this incident was never more than a rumor, it is also true that project investigators were not able satisfactorily to confirm or deny that an UFO incident had occurred. Attempts to investigate the rumor were met with evasion and uncooperative responses to our inquiries by base information."

It seems to me that most people would tend to interpret incidents such as these as being strongly indicative of official secrecy in operation, although it is only fair to point out that some groups greatly exaggerate the part played by official secrecy in the concealment of UFO data.

Much of the Report consists of padding. Some of this padding is very interesting, particularly the section dealing with atmospheric electrical phenomena. However, as most of this material has only an indirect bearing on the question and is already available to UFO researchers in the appropriate scientific textbooks, there seems little if any justification for including it. Worse, little attempt is made to correlate this material with actual UFO observations, although there is some useful discussion on the uses and limitations of radar in the detection of UFOs.

For some very pertinent criticisms of the Report, the reader is advised to consult the latest issue (Volume 15, Number 2) of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. More reviews of the Report are promised for the next issue.

There is one use for the Report, for UFO investigators. It brings together, between one set of covers, information on various types of natural phenomena, many of which could under certain circumstances result in spurious UFO reports. Thus it may help some ufologists to avoid making elementary scientific blunders when evaluating the reports which they investigate.

B O O K R E V I E W

Unidentified Flying Objects, by Robert Chapman. Arthur Barker Ltd., London. 304-

British ufologists will already be familiar with the topics covered by Mr Chapman--the "Flying Cross", Scoriton, the Staffordshire reports, etc.

There is an interesting chapter about Warminster and the author describes how he saw strange lights in the sky while sky-watching on Cradle Hill with Arthur Shuttlewood. It seems that Mr Chapman was impressed and had absorbed the "atmosphere" of the place. He writes, of his sighting:-

"It was a strange and, for me, totally unexpected experience, and I know now how easily one can be caught up in the flying saucer mystery. While watching the light (or lights) I had an uncanny feeling that something remarkable was about to happen and an equally strong sense of disappointment when it did not."

Although impressed by Warminster and intrigued by the Scoriton affair, he is of the opinion that the Cedric Allingham story was "probably the biggest UFO leg-pull ever perpetrated in Britain." Indeed, it seems that no convincing evidence has been produced that Allingham himself ever existed.

The treatment of the subject is very fair and open minded and this book should appeal particularly to newcomers to ufology.

L O C A L U F O R E P O R T S

Farnworth, near Bolton, Lancashire

April 28th, or 29th, 1969.
Time - not known

It was reported that in the early morning of April 29th police at Farnworth, near Bolton, were investigating a report of a UFO, described as a "large metal, cigar-shaped machine with red, flashing lights." A police spokesman said: "Report seemed to be genuine. The object was said to have broken up in flight." (Source: Daily Telegraph, 29/4/69)

Other Reports

There have been one or two local reports and rumours of reports. Also, we understand that UFO activity is increasing in the Midlands.

The fireball of April 25th was seen by many people on Merseyside, including your editors John Harney and Alan Sharp, who viewed it from Bromborough and Liverpool, respectively.

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